



COPS Facts

Problem-Solving Partnerships

Program Information

On May 17, 1997, Attorney General Janet Reno announced the awarding of more than \$38 million under the COPS Problem-Solving Partnerships grant program to 454 jurisdictions in 47 states.

The innovative nature of this program allows it to fund a wide variety of resources including crime analysis, mapping and other computer technology, and Internet access for research purposes.

The Problem-Solving Partnerships grant program provides policing agencies and community-based entities with a unique opportunity to work together to address persistent crime and disorder problems. This innovative community policing program is one of several initiatives offered by the U.S. Department of Justice under the 1994 Crime Act to support innovative community policing and to complement the COPS officer hiring initiatives.

Applicants focused on one specific crime or disorder problem. These include:

- Residential or Commercial Burglary
- Auto Theft
- Larceny
- Homicide
- Assault
- Rape/Sexual Assault
- Alcohol-related Problems
- Street-level Drug Dealing or Drug-related Problems
- Vandalism, Prostitution or Other Disorder Problems

Applicants will engage in a three-step process to address the selected problem. First, they will conduct an in-depth

inquiry into the causes of the problem. Second, they will respond to the problem with specific, tailor-made programs. Finally, they will assess the impact of those responses on the problem.

The grants will fund resources that enhance a community's ability to do creative problem solving. Such resources may include computer technology, such as geographic information and mapping systems; crime analysis personnel; subject matter experts; neighborhood and environmental surveys; victim and offender interviews; community organizers; and training and technical assistance in collaborative problem-solving.

Funding Provisions

This grant program selection process was very competitive. Problem-Solving Partnerships grants range from \$5,000 to \$150,000, with an average award of \$50,000. A local match is not required, although applicants are encouraged to contribute cash or in-kind resources to their proposed projects.

At least 5 percent of the grant award must be used to evaluate the impact of the problem-solving effort on the targeted crime or disorder problem.

Grant funds must be used to supplement, and not supplant, state or local funds that otherwise would be devoted to public safety activities.

Eligibility Requirements

All state, local, tribal and other public law enforcement agencies committed to the philosophy of community policing were eligible to apply for grant funds. Law enforcement agencies generally must partner with a nonprofit, community-based entity or municipal agency.

Law enforcement agencies (primary applicants) could submit only one application. Community-based entities (secondary applicants) were eligible to partner with one or more law enforcement agencies and, therefore, may have appeared in more than one application.

Receiving an award under the Problem-Solving Partnerships grant program will not affect the eligibility of an agency to receive awards under other COPS programs.

Grant Application Guide

“Problem-Solving Tips: A Guide to Reducing Crime and Disorder Through Problem-Solving Partnerships” is available to aid applicants in completing their application. The guide provides background information on most of the questions found in the grant application.

To obtain the companion guide, or for more information, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770. The guide will be available on the Internet via the COPS Office web site at www.usdoj.gov/cops/